

In the claims

1. (Currently Amended) A system for managing a set of access rules, comprising:  
a main office retaining a set of access rules and a set of mathematical equations within a database where each equation is stored as a set of sequential steps within a dimension of the database where each step of the dimension is associated with one of a single variable ~~or~~ and a single mathematical operator that is used in conjunction with variables and mathematical operators of previous steps to generate the equation, the main office in communication with at least one remote office to receive data and to apply the set of mathematical equations to the received data; and

the remote office initiating contact with the main office and receiving the set of access rules from the main office after having initiated contact;

wherein the remote office communicates with the main office in conformity with the set of access rules received from the main office, wherein the set of access rules govern the transmission of data from the remote office to the main office, wherein for each type of data transfer from the remote office to the main office there is an access rule that comprises a single permissible formatting standard rule used by the main office for data transfers of that type, and wherein the formatting standard rule for the data transfer of that type is automatically sent to the remote office by the main office in response to the initiation of contact by the remote office and before the remote office sends entered data to the main office such that the entered data is first automatically correctly formatted to be compatible with the single permissible format used by the main office for the data transfer of that type.

2. (Original) The system for managing data according to claim 1, wherein one of the access rules includes a security access code.

3. (Original) The system for managing data according to claim 1, wherein one of the access rules includes a password.

4. (Original) The system for managing data according to claim 1, wherein one of the access rules includes verification of login identification.

5. (Original) The system for managing data according to claim 1, wherein one of the access rules limits the amount of information the remote office is permitted to access.
6. (Original) The system for managing data according to claim 1, wherein the main office further comprises at least one data rule.
7. (Original) The system for managing data according to claim 6, wherein one of the data rules includes a format for a field.
8. (Original) The system for managing data according to claim 6, wherein one of the data rules includes a specification for a number of fields.
9. (Previously Presented) The system for managing data according to claim 6, further comprising a plurality of remote offices that receive the set of access rules and that transfer data to the main office in conformity with the set of access rules.
10. (Previously Presented) A system for managing data comprising:
  - a main office retaining a set of data rules and being in communication with at least one remote office;
  - the remote office initiating contact with the main office and receiving the set of data rules from the main office after having initiated contact;
  - wherein the remote office transmits data to the main office in conformity with the set of data rules received from the main office, wherein the set of the data rules governs the data format for transfers of data from the remote office to the main office, wherein for each type of data transfer from the remote office to the main office there is a data rule that comprises a single permissible formatting standard rule used by the main office for data transfers of that type, and wherein the formatting standard rule for the data transfer of that type is automatically sent to the remote office by the main office in response to the initiation of contact by the remote office and before the remote office transmits the data to the main office such that the data is first automatically correctly formatted to be compatible with the single permissible format used by the main office for the data transfer of that type.

11. (Original) The system for managing data according to claim 10, wherein one of the data rules includes a format for a field.
12. (Original) The system for managing data according to claim 10, wherein one of the data rules includes a specification for a number of fields.
13. (Original) The system for managing data according to claim 10, wherein one of the data rules includes a specification for organizing at least one field of data.
14. (Canceled)
15. (Previously Presented) The system for managing data according to claim 10, wherein the main office further retains access rules governing the transfer of data from the remote office to the main office, and wherein one of the access rules include a security access code.
16. (Previously Presented) The system for managing data according to claim 15, wherein one of the access rules includes a password.
17. (Previously Presented) The system for managing data according to claim 15, wherein one of the access rules includes verification of login identification.
18. (Previously Presented) The system for managing data according to claim 15, wherein one of the access rules limits the amount of information the remote office is permitted to access.
19. (Previously Presented) A system for managing data comprising:
  - a main office retaining access rules and data rules in communication with at least one remote office;
  - the remote office initiating contact with the main office and receiving the access rules and the data rules from the main office after having initiated contact;

wherein the remote office transmits data to the main office in conformity with the access rules and the data rules received, and

wherein the access rules and data rules comprise formatting standards used by the main office, wherein for each type of data transfer from the remote office to the main office there is an access rule or a data rule that comprises a single permissible formatting standard used by the main office for data transfers of that type, and wherein the formatting standards of the access rules and data rules are automatically sent to the remote office by the main office in response to the initiation of contact by the remote office and before the remote office transmits the data to the main office such that the data is first automatically correctly formatted to be compatible with the single permissible format used by the main office for the data transfer of that type.

20. (Original) The system for managing data according to claim 19, further comprising two or more remote offices.

21. (Original) The system for managing data according to claim 19, wherein the main office communicates with the remote office over the internet.

22. (Original) The system for managing data according to claim 19, wherein the main office communicates with the remote office over an intranet.

23. (Original) The system for managing data according to claim 19, wherein a change to one of the data rules in the main office causes a substantially similar change in at least one of the remote offices.

24. (Original) The system for managing data according to claim 19, wherein a change to one of the access rules in the main office causes a substantially similar change in at least one of the remote offices.

25. (Original) The system for managing data according to claim 19, wherein the remote office communicates with the main office through a web site and the remote office provides information to the web site.

26. (Original) The system for managing data according to claim 19, wherein the main office maintains a web site and the remote office retrieves information from the web site.

27. (Previously Presented) A system for managing data comprising:

- a main office retaining access rules and data rules and being in communication with at least one remote office, the main office applying equations to data;

- the remote office initiating contact with the main office and receiving the access rules and the data rules from the main office after having initiated the contact with the main office;

- a database coupled to the main office, including a plurality of fields, at least one data element, and at least one function such that the main office utilizes the data elements and functions to apply the equations to the data;

  - wherein the function includes a first operator and a second operator;

  - wherein the data element, the first operator and the second operator are all stored on the database, and

  - wherein the access rules and data rules comprise formatting standard rules used by the main office, wherein for each type of data transfer from the remote office to the main office there is an access rule or a data rule that comprises a single permissible formatting standard rule used by the main office for data transfers of that type, and wherein the formatting standard rules of the access rules and data rules are automatically sent to the remote office by the main office in response to the initiation of contact by the remote office and before the remote office sends data to the main office such that the data is first automatically correctly formatted to be compatible with the single permissible format used by the main office for the data transfer of that type.

28. (Original) The system for managing data according to claim 27, wherein the first operator is stored in a first location, the second operator is stored in a second location different than the first location, and the data element is stored in a third location on the same database.

29 (Original) The system for managing data according to claim 27, wherein the first operator, the second operator, and the data element are stored in a predetermined order that corresponds to the function.

30. (Original) The system for managing data according to claim 29, wherein when the fields are retrieved in the predetermined order, the retrieval produces the function.